



Youth Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK

Make
Your Mark



Combined Elections 2022: UK Youth Parliament and Make Your Mark Guidance

**This handbook is aimed at Local Authorities running
Combined Elections (UK Youth Parliament and Make Your
Mark).**



The Context

In 2022, UK Youth Parliament Elections and Make Your Mark will be held at the same time. We understand that the upcoming elections will take a different shape in each Local Authority,

Therefore, the information in this document should be used as a guide that can be adjusted to fit the intricacies of your area. The text from this election handbook can be used to form your own Local Authority election guidance

This document also provides a template election plan and timeline that you may wish to replicate within your Local Authority.

What is UK Youth Parliament?

UK Youth Parliament enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Run by young people for young people, UK Youth Parliament provides opportunities for young people aged 11-18 years old to use their voice to bring about social change. There are currently over 350 elected Members of Youth Parliaments in the UK.

Not all Local Authorities are members of UK Youth Parliament, therefore young people in schools, colleges and youth groups in non-member areas will not be able to host or stand in Member of Youth Parliament elections. But we still urge these authorities to get involved with Make Your Mark.

From 2022 across the UK, Members of Youth Parliament will be elected biennially and serve a two year term of office. Each Local Authority has a different approach to electing Members of Youth Parliament, some may select candidates from pre-existing Youth Councils and others may open the ballot to any young person aged between 11-18 in their area.

See our template candidate guidance pack [HERE!](#)

Identifying Candidates and The Application Process

1. Advertising the Opportunity

The prospect of submitting a full manifesto when registering may be too daunting for some young people and discourage them from applying to be an Member of Youth Parliament. At Northumberland Adolescent Services they gather an initial expression of interest from Young People. In a relaxed manner they ask young people what issues they are passionate about, then introduce the idea of UK Youth Parliament. After, they request potential candidates to fill out a simple form to gather basic information. They also accept alternative submissions eg: video or voice recording.

2. Submission of a Manifesto

In many areas candidates are asked to submit a manifesto which highlights issues they are passionate about and why they would like to become an Member of Youth Parliament. The way in which authorities collect these manifestos (written, video, email) is at their discretion. We would recommend considering ways by which the application process can be made more accessible in order to encourage a diverse cohort of young people, who are reflective of the area, to apply.

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3. Campaigning

Members of Youth Parliament campaigns take very different forms depending on local authority policy. Some areas do not encourage any form of individual campaigning in order to prevent favouritism, prejudice etc... whereas others allow it within the remit of their own code of conduct. As long as the guidelines set out in the Rulebook and Election Essentials are adhered to, the decision around campaigning lies with the Local Authority.

4. Election

In order to accommodate the differences in how elections are being run in 2022 we have created a flexible voting period which will run throughout February. Again, there are variations in the way authorities run elections, some being totally anonymous so Young People vote on manifestos alone, some including only names of schools/colleges and some including photographs. Again, we endeavour for elections to be as democratic and fair as possible therefore for this reason we encourage authorities to gain the support of local electoral services where possible.

Make Your Mark

Make Your Mark is an annual consultation of 11-18 year olds, it aims to give young people the chance to have their say on what matters to them.

Ten issues are presented to young people on a ballot paper, they vote in schools, colleges and youth groups throughout February and the three with the most votes become the newly elected Member's of Youth Parliaments campaign topics for their two year term..

Make Your Mark is a fantastic opportunity for all young people to engage in democracy and following registration a plethora of resources including videos and posters will be available for use within schools.

Template Combined Election Plan

**Click
Here**



If you are a Local Authority Worker running Combined Elections in 2022 and have further questions please contact your Regional Coordinator who will be happy to assist!